



Applicant has provided a complete set of "clean" claims after the amendments above.

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Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application. Applicant's representative hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to the HOWREY SIMON ARNOLD & WHITE Deposit Account No. 01-2508, referencing Order No. 11783.0017/WAA.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner directly contact the undersigned by phone at (713) 787-1454 to further the discussion, reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

But S. Allen

Robert P. Auerbach

Patent Agent

Reg. No. 46,525

Date: 7/27/01